

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /028 W

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P 071700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1181

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; BEXP, GE

SUBJECT: LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR

REF: (A) STATE 162572; (B) BERLIN 6110; (C) BERLIN 5876

1. IN DETAILED CONVERSATION IN LEIPZIG AUGUST 6 WITH HERR MEHNERT OF LEIPZIG FAIR AUTHORITY, LATTER ASSURED EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT 500 SQ. METERS EXHIBIT SPACE WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US FOR SPING 1976 EXHIBIT. MEHNERT STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT US SPACE WOULD BE IN ONE OF THREE HALLS - NO. 15, 17, OR 18 - DEVOTED TO INDUSTRIAL BRACH EXHIBITS, AND NOT IN HALL 16 IN WHICH COUNTRY EXHIBITS OF MORE GENERAL CHARACTER ARE HOUSED.

2. MEHNERT REITERATED THE FAIR AUTHORITY'S POSITION REGARDING "OFFICIAL"VERSUS INDUSTRIAL BRANCH EXHIBITS. REF (C) HE SAID THE FAIR AUTHORITY AGREES TO AN INDUSTRIAL BRANCH EXHIBIT UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE US GOVERNMENT AND HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PRESENCE OF US OFFICIALS IN THE EXHIBIT AREA.

3. MEHNERT SAID FAIR AUTHORITY IS NOT YET ABLE TO MAKE A CONCRETE OFFER BUT SOUGHT TO ASSURE EMBOFF THAT THEY WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORYSFASHION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ASAP:

(A) WILL EXHIBIT REQUIRE WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE?

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(B) WEIGHT OF HEAVIEST EXHIBIT?

(C) WEIGHTPER SQUARE METER OF HEAVIEST EXHIBIT?

(D) OUR PREFERENCE REGARDING OVERALL LENGTH AND WIDTH  
OF OUR 500 SQ METER SPACE.

4. TOWARD THE END OF THE CONVERSATION MEHNERT ASKED IF  
A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY THE US WHETHER WE PLAN TO  
HAVE A US NATIONAL STAND IN HALL 16 AT THE SPRING '76 FAIR  
(REF C PARA). EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE HAVE NO PLANS  
FOR SUCH AN EXHIBIT. MEHNERT THEN ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY  
GIVE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO SUCH US  
EXHIBIT. WE GUESS THIS PECULIAR REQUEST HAS TO DO WITH  
GDR INSISTENCE THAT OUR INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT NOT HAVE THE  
CHARACTER OF A US NATIONAL EXHIBIT. WE SUPPOSE THAT IF  
WE SUPPLY WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO  
"NATIONAL" EXHIBIT, THEY WILL HAVE A DOCUMENT TO APPEAL  
TO IF THEY FEEL OUR INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT FAILS TO MEET  
THEIR CRITERIA. THIS UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR USG TO  
PROCEED WITH SOME CARE IN DESIGNING OUR EXHIBIT TO AVOID  
A DISPUTE WITH THE FAIR AUTHORITY ABOUT ITS CHARACTER  
AND APPEARANCE. TO MEET THEIR REQUEST, WE PROPOSE TO  
SEND THE FAIR AUTHORITY A BRIEF LETTER STATING THE  
USG PLANS ONLY AN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT IN SPRING '76.COOPER

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